

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00168 121547Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 IO-13 SIL-01 LAB-04 MCT-01 /088 W
-----130438Z 062331 /11

R 121243Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1678
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 168

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: LOYALIST GENERAL STRIKE: DAY TEN

REF: (A) BELFAST 167 (B) BELFAST 166

1. PICTURE IN BELFAST THIS MORNING SIMILAR TO YESTERDAY
BUSES WILL NOT RUN AT LEAST UNTIL AFTERNOON MAY 13 BUT
PEOPLE ARE MAKING THEIR WAY TO WORK ON FOOT AND BY
HITCH-HIKING. THERE IS MARKED LACK OF ROADBLOCKS AND
GROUPS OF MEN LOUNGING ON CORNERS AT RUSH HOURS SINCE MAY 3
HAVE DISPERSED EXCEPT FOR POCKETS ON SHANKILL AND A FEW
OTHER AREAS. REPORTS ARE COMING IN OF AN ATTACK ON GASOLINE
TANKER IN WHICH SHOTS WERE FIRED AND DRIVER INJURED BY
GLASS FROM WINDSHIELD. PROVINCE IS GENERALLY QUIET WITH
PORT OF LARNE PARTIALLY OPERATIVE. SIX CONTAINER FERRIES
WERE WORKED YESTERDAY AND THREE HAVE LOADED OR UNLOADED
THIS MORNING. DEPARTURES FROM LARNE WILL EASE CONCERN OF
BEEF AND POULTRY EXPORTERS. UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL (UAC)
CLAIMS LARNE PORT BEING WORKED BY "BLACK-LEG" LABOR FROM
BELFAST DOCKS AND ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT (UDR) BUT IT
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PAGE 02 BELFAS 00168 121547Z

APPEARS THAT SOME AT LEAST WHO WORKING ARE FROM LARGE FORCE.
ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES ARE NORMAL BUT IT IMPOSSIBLE OBTAIN
INFORMATION ON PRECISE LABOR SITUATION AT BALLYLUMFORD. THERE
WAS AN INTERRUPTION OF POWER FOR A FEW SECONDS IN SOUTH BELFAST
MAY 10 AND PART OF THE LISBURN AREA WAS BLACKED OUT LAST
NIGHT, POSSIBLY BY SABOTAGE OF A PYLON. DEMONSTRATIONS
BY FARMERS HAVE DWINDLED TO PRACTICALLY NOTHING TODAY.

BUSES ARE OPERATING IN SOME AREAS OF PROVINCE, INCLUDING LONDONDERRY CITY.

2. ONE BOMB WAS EXPLODED AT BELFAST SIROCCO ENGINEERING WORKS YESTERDAY BUT THERE LITTLE DAMAGE AND NO INJURIES. A BOMB DAMAGED PART OF BANGOR-BELFAST RAILROAD LINE LAST NIGHT. FATHER OF MAN KILLED IN FILLING STATION BOMBING (REFTEL B) HAS BLAMED SECRETARY OF STATE MASON AND LACK OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR STRIKE FOR DEATH OF SON. HAD STATION CLOSED, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BOMBED, HE SAID. MOST PARAMILITARY GROUPS, INCLUDING PROVISIONAL IRA HAVE DENIED BOMBING BUT CAR USED WAS HI-JACKED ON PROTESTANT SHANKILL ROAD. IT APPEARS OTHER MAN WHO DIED IN EXPLOSION MAY HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLYING INCENDIARIES. BUS DRIVERS WILL VOTE AFTER FUNERAL OF SHOT COLLEAGUE MAY 13 WHEN TO RETURN TO WORK. THEY HAVE REFUSED OFFER OF NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE TO PROVIDE ARMY OR POLICE PERSONNEL TO RIDE SHOTGUN ON EACH BUS BUT HAVE WELCOMED OFFER FOR INCREASED MOBILE AND FOOT PATROLS IN DANGEROUS AREAS.

3. SO FAR IN STRIKE THREE PEOPLE HAVE DIED, 48 CIVILIANS AND 38 POLICE PERSONS HAVE BEEN INJURED AND THERE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE CHARGED AS SUMMONED ON STRIKE-RELATED CHARGES. SEVEN-HUNDRED ROAD BLOCKS HAVE BEEN REMOVED AND THERE HAVE BEEN 1760 REPORTS OF INTIMIDATION - ALMOST 200 A DAY. PROVISIONAL IRA REMAINS QUIET.

4. NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE AND POLICE HAVE LABELLED PAISLEY "CIA CONSPIRACY" CHARGE (REFTEL A) AS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BELFAS 00168 121547Z

"HYSTERICAL" AND "TOTALLY LUDICROUS" RESPECTIVELY. MEDIA, INCLUDING BBC AFTER INITIAL BURST, DISPLAYED WISDOM IN PLAYING DOWN PAISLEY CHARGE.

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Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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